THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) ONGC has drawn up a systematic phase wise exploration programme in the deep waters of Western and Eastern offshore areas. About 65500 LKM and 28500 LKM seismic data have already been acquired in the Western anbd Eastern offshore respectively.

(c) and (d) For the first phase of drilling, 4 deep water locations have been identified. Two locations are in the Kerala Konkan offshore on the West Coast and one each in the Cauvery and K.G. offshore \n the East Coast. Drilling is likely to commence after the monsoon in 1997.

Irregularities by Petroleum Dealers in Maharashtra

3571 SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that various irregularities and manipulations are being increasingly committed by petrol/kerosene and cooking gas dealers in Maharashtra; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the connizance taken by the petroleum companies the number of raids conducted/inspections carried out, cases of serious manipulations/ irregularities noticed and the action taken against the defaulting agents/distributors;

(c) the details of the agencies suspended during the last three years, company-wise; with their locations; and

(d) the details of fresh steps initiated to ensure clean and efficient marketing of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) 116 and 148 cases of irregularities/malpractices were detected at RO/SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships respectively during raids/ inspections in the last three years in Maharashtra.

Actions such as issue of warning letters, suspension of sales and supplies, imposition of fine, termination of the dealership/distributorship, etc. were taken under the Marketing discipline Guidelines in proven cases of irregularities/malpractices.

(d) In order to ensure clean and efficient marketing of petroleum products, steps such as furfural doping of kerosene, blue-dying of kerosene, density check etc. are taken and regular/surprise inspection of retail outlets/SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG Distributorships by field officer* of the oil companies and inspection by Joint Industry Teams, mobile laboratories and officers of State Government agencies are carried out.

Action is taken against the erring dealers/distributors under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Investment Plan of IOC

3572. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation propose to invest Rs.2302 crores on new investment plan in 1997-98;

(b) if so, the various heads under which this investment would be made;

(c) whether any outside assessment plan has been made;

(d) if so, the name of the audit agency, if aay, which have a second opinion of IOCs plan;

(e) whether many of these new plans are redundant or are not lost effective; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation has proposals to invest

Rs.2302 crores on new investment plans in 1997-98 under the following heads:

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Refinery Division	1024.36
(ii) Pipeline Division	633.65
(iii) Marketing Division	396.65
(iv) Assam Oil division	64.27
(v) Petrochemicals	77.23
(vi) Research & Development	50.00
(vii) L.N.G. Project	5.00
(viii) Exploration & Production.	50.00
(ix) Indian Oil Blending Divn.	1.5

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Royalty on Crude Oil to Oil Producing States

3573. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of royalty on crude oil paid to Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and other States having oilfields by the public sector oil companies and the ONGC during last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the quantity of crude oil produced by these states during the same period, year-wise;

(c) whether it is fact that fall in the production of crude, particularly in the North Sector, is attributed to administrativeand financial mismanagement, as the ONGC has not been paying the crude oil royalty to States if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the oil companies and the ONGC are facing paucity of funds; if so, the steps taken to remove the reosurce crunch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

रसोई गैस वितरण प्रणाली में खामियों

3574. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को गत कुछ वर्षों से रसोई गैस उपभोक्ताओं को गैस की आपूर्ति करने की वर्तमान व्यवस्था में भारी खामियां होने से संबंधित शिकायतें प्राप्त होती रही हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने व्यवस्था में सुधार करने के लिए कोई कार्रवाही की है।

(ग) यदि हां तो कब और क्या कार्रवाही की है,

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि रसोई गैस उपभोक्ताओं को भरे हुए सिलेंडर के लिए एक निक्षित अवाधि तक प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती है, और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो वह अवधि कितनी है और इस अवधि के निर्धारण का क्या आधार है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी. आर. बालू) (क) जी, हां। कछ शिकायतों और सुझाव प्राप्त होते रहते है।

(ख) और (ग) सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों डिस्ट्रीव्टरशिपों के निरीक्षण और आपुर्तियों की निगरानी की प्रणाली के माध्यम से उपभोक्ताओं को नियमित आपुर्ति सुनिक्षित करने के लिए वितरण प्रणाली पर सतत निगरानी रखती है। कांडला और मंगलौर एल पी जी आयात टर्मिनलों के आरम्भ होने के पश्चाक अक्तूबर में बहुत सुधार हुआ है। वर्तमान प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए निन्मलिखित उपाय किए गए हैं।

1) देश में एल पी जी की बढी हुई उपलब्धता की सहायता से नया स्वरति एल पी जी नार्णाकन आरम्भ करने की योजना है।

2) एल पी जी बाजारों में वृद्धि का अनुमान मुख्य रुप से पैक्ड आपुर्ति के लिए लगाया गया है, इसलिए 1.1.97 तक लगभग 3.24 एम एम पी ए की एल पी जी भरण क्षमता को भैवों याजना के अंढ तक 7.57 एम एम टी पी ए तक बढाने का प्रस्ताव है।

3) एल पी जी की बढती हुई मांग को पुरा करने के लिए सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की प्रस्तावित नए बाजारों में नए एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीव्टरों की नियिक्ति करने की योजना बनाई है।